

Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2015

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Jan Kinsella; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou McNerney; Mary Lou Urquhart; Margaret Young; and Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Absent Members: Carole Calef; Cathy Davis and Vicky Drury

Also absent: Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2014 meeting

Noted changes:

1. The correct name of the committee is the Cultural and Historical (not Historic) Affairs Committee.
2. News Articles Album: Jan Kinsella is also involved in that project.
3. Oral History Project: A thank you note and DVD or showing and reception for those who participated in the project.
4. Ms. Loppatto and Ms. Olmstead noted the correct name for the Coastal Towns Museum Committee (CTMC) not CMC.
5. Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Loppatto and unanimously approved.

Update on Artifacts Catalogue Listing

Ms. Loppatto distributed an itemized list of contents archived in the Bethany Beach Museum. They would like to have Ms. Malewski assist them in having an artifact list and museum pictures on the website. The committee noted the following:

- The Wooden Duck donated by Dorothy White has no significance to Bethany Beach and should be removed.
- Notice of free game Bethany Beach Country Club (Bethany Beach Miniature Golf Course) – This needs clarification. Ms. Young thinks this is a gag item since there never was a BB Country Club. Locals referred to the Mini Golf Course as the Country Club.
- WWII Helmet – add that it was found on Bethany Beach. The committee felt there is no need to identify the specific police officer who turned it in.
- Two early swimsuits – need to find out who donated them
- Coast Guard Uniform framed. Donated by Bennett Family.

- Painting of “Journey’s End” – donated by Carolyn Hughes in memory of her son, Christian.
- Print “Out of the Mist” by Ellen Rice – donated by the Deitch Family in memory of their mother, Nancy.
- Totem Pole – is technically an Indian sculpture and not a true totem pole. Whispering Giant? Ms. Olmstead will find out where the replica came from.
- Need to add:
 - T-shirt commemorating the twinning of Bethany Beach and Périers. Donated by Diana Cowell.
 - Framed postcards of the town of Périers. Donated by (Carol to get the name of the family).
 - Framed old postcards that were in the Bethany Arms Motel. Donated by Judy Savage, co-owner of the Bethany Arms. These will need to be re-framed due to the condition of the current frame.

Possible New Historical Plaques

1. Holiday House Plaque -Bruce Corson requested that a new plaque be created and placed at the site of Mango’s. This was a Christmas gift idea for his wife whose grandmother was Elizabeth Wharton, original builder of Warren’s Restaurant. Mr. Corson requested that the plaque acknowledge her grandmother’s contribution and would be willing to pay for the new plaque. Ms. Young felt the wording might be too long. If that’s the case the committee agreed to delete the mention of Mango’s. All agreed the change would be historically significant. Ms. Olmstead will bring the actual wording to the next meeting.
2. Alex Alder gave Ms. Olmstead contact information for the 8 homes that the committee agreed to target for new plaques. Ms. Olmstead gave the request letter to the members for review and asked Julie to create letterhead for it.

Discussion Regarding Making Oral History DVD and New Notecards Available to the Public

1. **Oral History DVD** – Since the interviewees gave signed permission for CHAC to use their stories, the committee feels the DVD needs to be copyrighted to protect the interests of those featured.
2. **Notecards** – Ms. Olmstead shared the printed postcards with the committee. They noticed some edits that would need to be made to the descriptive copy but overall were pleased with the product. Ms. Olmstead said she priced packaging for clear plastic boxes online at 25 for \$6. The committee agreed that was a fair price. Before these can be ordered, they need to determine how many can fit in a box. The idea is to sell packs of 5 for \$6. They plan to fold them at the next meeting.

Discussion Regarding Small Museums Membership and Conference

- **Small Museums Association Membership** - At the CTMC meeting in December, Nancy Alexander of the Rehoboth Historical Society recommended joining the Small Museums Association. Membership offers newsletters spotlighting member institutions and their innovative programs, upcoming professional opportunities for small museums and

thoughtful articles on current issues affecting small museums. The committee voted to join as an organization.

- **Small Museums Association Conference** - The event takes place February 15 – 17 at the Clarion in Ocean City. Ms. Olmstead distributed the conference schedule and asked if anyone wanted to attend. Cost is \$170 for the full program and \$125 for one day. Of particular interest were the Monday sessions since they would most pertain to the Bethany Beach Museum (e.g. website creation, promoting special events; using artifacts to engage visitors, etc.) Ms. Loppatto moved to have at least one representative at the conference. Ms. Young seconded and all agreed.

Website Availability for Museum – When the Town updates its website, the museum hopes to have photos of the museum and the list of artifacts all organized under one tab.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Julie Malewski
Administrative Secretary